

PEST: Crazy Raspberry Ants (*Paratrechina 'fulva'*) (a pest complex)

BASIC PROFILE: CRA is a growing ant pest in East Texas that nests in pastures and wooded areas but forages in urban settings. Colonies are large with multiple queens. They invade homes and structures and are a nuisance although they rarely sting or bite. Adults are reddish-brown and are very small, 2-3mm (~1/16") long, with long legs and a long antennal scape. They feed on plants, foodstuffs, and many other items but can damage electrical wiring, panels and outlets. Their quick movements and erratic behavior earned them the name 'crazy'. A related species, *P. longicornis* ('crazy ant') is already established in the SE U.S.

LDAF ACTIVITY: Natural spread of this ant into Louisiana is inevitable and it has been found in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. Also, it can be moved in plants and soil. LDAF will work with LSU personnel as needed and may be asked by USDA to conduct specified surveys. There is no federal quarantine or survey protocol. Best management practices will be developed through USDA and LSU once it is found.

